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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 15 | Humidity 39% Mostly sunny Sensex 85,063 | Nifty 26,178 | Gold 1,38,873 | Silver 2,55,780 | Dollar 90.12 | Euro 105.35 | GBP 121.66

STIFF DRINK

State excise department launches strict crackdown on liquor retailers who sell alcohol above Maximum Retail Price

PAGE 3

JUST FLEXING

Officials quick to fine people over posters pasted in public spaces, but drag their feet when it comes to politicians' hoardings

PAGE 5

Supply disruptions from Chinese manufacturing units since August last year has caused spike in rate of drilling bits used by borewell operators, resulting in financial burden in city dependent on this necessary evil

BORED TO DEATH

Drilling costs jump up to 85% and groundwater crisis looms

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

A year of healthy rainfall has done little to ease Bengaluru's dependence on borewells. As summer approaches and groundwater levels dip further, the city is witnessing a renewed rush for borewell drilling. The catch is the cost. From January 1, 2026, borewell drilling rates across Bengaluru and adjoining rural pockets have gone up sharply, leaving homeowners, apartment associations and farmers staring at a steep financial burden.

For nearly four to five years, borewell drilling prices had remained stable. That trend has now been decisively broken. Borewell operators in Bengaluru say the spike is driven by a sharp rise in the cost of drilling bits, the core equipment used to penetrate hard rock layers beneath the city.

Drilling bits used for borewells are made of tungsten carbide, a high-strength industrial material essential for cutting through Bengaluru's hard granite rock formations. A significant portion of tungsten carbide powder and button inserts is imported from China. Industry sources say supply disruptions from Chinese manufacturing units since August last year sharply tightened availability, pushing up raw material costs and triggering an immediate price spiral in India's drilling sector.

Until July 2025, a single hard rock drilling bit cost between

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"We know groundwater is depleting, but what option do we have? BWSSB supply is irregular in summer. Our apartment is planning a new borewell, but the quote is shocking

— Anitha S, Whitefield resident

Come on, buckle up

Not wearing seatbelts contributes to 11% of all recorded traffic violations, proving motorists just not taking life-saving measure seriously

| Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While helmetless riding remains the top traffic violation in the city, another critical safety breach continues to grab attention — seat belt violations by car drivers and passengers. According to latest traffic enforcement data, over six lakh drivers and road users were booked for not wearing seat belts, making it one of the most frequent offences detected by traffic police until November 2025.

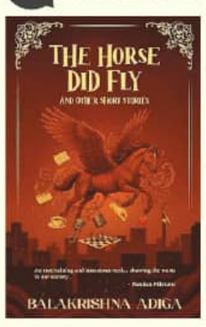
According to data, 6,66,903 cases were reported, accounting for more than 11% of all recorded offences, underscoring a persistent disregard for simple safety measures. Traffic experts warn that neglecting seat belts dramatically increases the risk of fatalities and serious injuries in accidents. Authorities emphasise that consistent enforcement, combined with public awareness campaigns have been going, yet there is little change in commuter behaviour on the city's roads.

Another reason for more cases being recorded is the automated enforcement that includes AI cameras, which has increased detection of seat belt non-compliance compared with earlier manual checks. "Many people disable the seat belt alarm by using locks or plugs, effectively going without it. I experienced this once in a taxi to Devanahalli, where the rear seat belt had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 The reading room



Atta Galatta is hosting a book reading by Balakrishna Adiga for his latest collection, The Horse Did Fly, an incisive collection of urban tales, bringing to life everyday characters caught in hilarious and surprising twists. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 9, 5.30 pm**

02 Candlelight serenade

The internationally acclaimed Candlelight® series by Live Your City is bringing an evening where audiences will experience iconic works reimagined through expressive live instrumentation and the soft glow of candlelight. **Where: Hyatt Centric Hebbal; When: January 11, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm**

03 Cadence calling

The Sadguru Sri Thyagabrahma Aradhana Kainkarya Trust is organising the 179th Vaidika Aradhana of the poet-saint Sri Thyagaraja. In addition to this, the Pancharatna Kruthi Goshti Gayana will be on January 7 at 8.30 am at the same venue. Music concerts will commence from 5 pm onwards. About 300 artists are expected to participate in this mega festival.**Where: Sringeri Shankara Matha, Chamarajapete; When: January 7 to 11**

04 Wholesome playtime

PLAYDATE: Pickleball Edition by Wild Date is bringing a parent–child playdate designed to highlight the importance of clean, nutritious and mindful eating for kids, while encouraging a healthier overall lifestyle from a young age. **here: The Hub, Commercial Street; When: Jan 11, 11 am**

05 Fetch the fun

Pet Fed is back with two days of pure joy for pets and pet lovers alike, bringing paw-sitivity, fun, and unforgettable experiences. **Where: KTPO, Whitefield; When: January 17, 11 am**

800 schools to become Karnataka Public Schools

The state government has greenlit a major overhaul of 800 schools, elevating them to Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) in the next academic year. The Education Department has been authorised to float a transparent Rs 18 crore tender to appoint an agency for preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) for each school. The total upgradation is pegged at Rs 3,200 crore, roughly Rs 2–4 crore per institution.

Officials said that each KPS will run separate Kannada and English medium classes from LKG to Class 12, catering to at least 1,200 students. DPRs must adhere to national building codes and departmental standards, with provisions for extra classrooms, science labs, and libraries based on student strength. Agencies selected via the tender must submit DPRs within two months, ensuring a robust blueprint for the massive school upgrade project. **— BMB**

Implementation of health policies under scrutiny

Man allegedly asked to pay for rabies vaccine at govt hospital; experts say such incidents point to systemic gaps rather than isolated lapses while highlighting wider public health implications

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

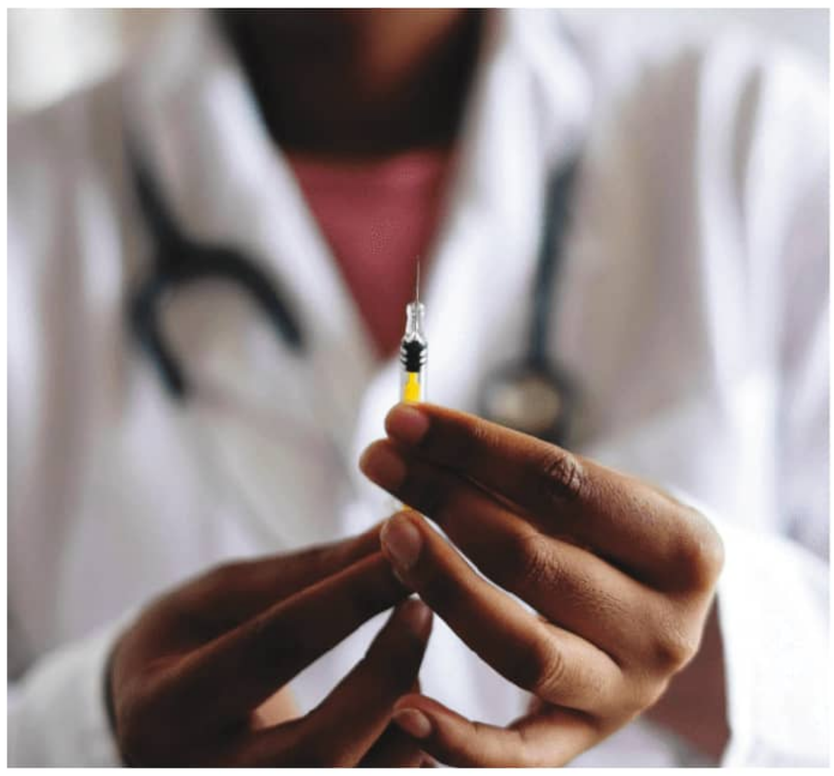
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Bengaluru resident has alleged that a government hospital asked him to pay for anti-rabies injections following a dog bite, raising questions over the implementation of policies that mandate free treatment for such cases.

The man allegedly visited Konanakunte Government Hospital after being bitten and scratched on the hand by his pet dog while playing. Though the injury was minor and the dog was vaccinated, he sought medical care as a precaution. During his first visit, he was administered two injections and later asked by hospital staff to pay Rs 100, he said.

The demand reportedly came as a surprise to the patient, who believed that anti-rabies vaccines are provided free of cost at government hospitals. Despite his doubts, he paid the amount. When he returned for a subsequent dose, he was again asked to pay the same fee. Unwilling to argue with the staff and unsure of the procedure, he paid once more.

Expressing concern over the incident, the man said the issue was not merely about the money but about how easily patients could be made to pay for services meant to be free. He pointed out that such practices could particularly impact economically weaker patients, who may hesitate to question hospital authorities.



Lack of clear signage, inconsistent communication, and understaffing often lead to patients being unsure of their entitlements, says public health specialist

Karnataka government hospitals are expected to provide free anti-rabies treatment, including vaccines, as part of public health measures aimed at preventing rabies-related deaths. The allegation has sparked discussion online about accountability, transparency, and the need for clearer communication of patient rights within public healthcare facilities. Public health experts say such incidents point to systemic gaps rather than isolated lapses. "Lack of clear signage, inconsistent communication, and understaffing often lead to patients being unsure of their entitlements," said a public health specialist. "This creates room for informal payments, whether intentional or not," he added.

Arun Prasad, animal activist, told Bangalore Mirror that vaccination for rabies must be provided free of cost at government institutions as there is a notification mandating the directive. "In case the patient is charged for the service, the doctor can be held for dereliction of duty. Irrespective of whether the patient holds a Below Poverty Line (BPL) card or not, the service must be provided free of cost," he explained.

Animal welfare activists said such incidents could have wider public health implications. "When people are unsure whether treatment will be free, they may delay or completely avoid reporting animal bites," said an animal rights activist associated with a Bengaluru-based rescue group. "This is dangerous, because timely post-exposure vaccination is critical, regardless of whether the bite is from a stray or a pet dog," said the activist.

The activist added that lack of clarity often fuels misinformation and fear. "We frequently deal with bite cases where people hesitate to seek help because they believe government hospitals will ask for money or treat them poorly. Clear communication and strict enforcement of free treatment policies are essential," the activist said.

Get ready for VK Kannada Habba this weekend

Event serves as inclusive platform that brings together thinkers, writers, artistes and audiences under one roof

With the twin aim of celebrating Kannada pride and firmly rooting the language in the minds of future generations, Vijaya Karnataka, sister concern of Bangalore Mirror is set to host the VK Kannada Habba on January 10 and 11 at the Mangala Mantapa, NMKRV College campus, Jayanagar. The two-day cultural festival promises a vibrant blend of literature, music, theatre, folk arts and food, making it a wholesome celebration of Kannada nadu and nudi.

The event will be held between 10.30 am to 9 pm on both days. It is envisioned as an inclusive platform that brings together thinkers, writers, artistes and audiences under one roof, reinforcing the idea that everyone who embraces Kannada is a Kannadiga.

Cultural confluence

The Kannada Habba will feature a rich mix of language-centric discussions, music performances, theatre, Yakshagana, folk dances, chende percussion and classical as well as contemporary cultural expressions. Adding to the festive atmosphere will be a book fair and food festival, offering visitors a chance to engage with Kannada literature and savour local flavours. From children to senior citizens, the programme is designed to spark pride and affection for the language across age groups. Organisers say the festival is not just about entertainment, but about nurturing linguistic consciousness in everyday life.

Event at a glance
Event: Vijaya Karnataka Kannada Habba
Venue: Mangala Mantapa, NMKRV College campus, Jayanagar 3rd Block
Dates: January 10 and 11
Time: 10.30 am to 9 pm; **Entry:** Free

The inaugural ceremony, on January 10 at 11 am, will be graced by Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Guruji, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Kannada Development Authority Chairman Purushothama Bilimale and actors Duniya Vijay and Amrutha Iyengar. Several noted writers, film personalities and cultural figures will participate over the two days. Folk attractions like Dollu Kunitha, Kamsale, Veeragase, Maragalu Kunitha and chende vadana are also lined up.

— Prakash VL

Hoax bomb alerts disrupt court hearings

Several court complexes across Karnataka were evacuated on Tuesday after authorities received emails warning of bomb explosions on the premises. The threats prompted swift precautionary measures, including the suspension of court proceedings and the evacuation of judges, lawyers, staff and litigants from the buildings.

The alerts were received at the Dharwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court and district courts in Mysuru, Gadag and Bagalkote. Following standard security protocols, police and court officials coordinated evacuations while restricting entry until safety checks were completed.

Bomb disposal squads and sniffer dog teams were deployed to conduct detailed searches of all affected locations. Police later confirmed that no explosives or suspicious materials were found during the inspections, indicating that the threats were likely hoaxes.

First Information Reports have been registered at the respective police stations, and investigations are under way to trace the origin of the emails. Authorities are examining digital trails to identify those responsible for sending the messages and to assess whether the incidents are linked.

In a separate but related incident, a similar bomb threat email was sent to the Bengaluru Passport Seva Kendra in Koramangala. The facility was searched by security teams, and no hazardous objects were detected there either.

Police officials said security has been reinforced at sensitive locations as a precaution, while efforts continue to prevent any recurrence of such threats.

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PENTAGON 13246

Excise storm hits alcohol outlets overcharging drinkers across state

Excise drive penalises sellers flouting MRP rules, suspends hundreds outlets, intensifies checks during festive trading periods amid rising consumer complaints

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The state excise department has launched a strict crackdown on liquor retailers selling alcohol above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), affecting consumers who end up paying more than the regulated rates. In a recent drive, approximately ₹12 crore in fines was collected, and 736 liquor shop licences were suspended for violations. Authorities note that selling liquor above the prescribed rates undermines government revenue and harms consumers, particularly during peak festive and economic periods.

Scale of the violation

Karnataka has 13,972 licensed liquor outlets, including MSIL (CL-11C) and retail wine shops (CL-2), all of which are legally required to sell at MRP. However, many retailers, in pursuit of higher profits, have been charging consumers more than the MRP. This includes wine shops, bars and hotels offering on-premise consumption, where additional service charges and taxes are added, further inflating prices. Many shops fail to display proper price lists, while some list only the cheapest options, leaving customers unaware of the correct MRP.

Officials seize permits, levy hefty penalties, warn bars, hotels, and restaurants, promise online price listings, and urge patrons to report violations, signalling tougher enforcement ahead through expanded surveillance, digital audits, and surprise inspections

Excise department cases and fines (2021–22 to 2024–25)

Year	Cases registered	Confiscated liquor	Fine collected (₹crores)
2021–22	2,231	195	3.88
2022–23	2,092	321	3.63
2023–24	2,157	89	3.44
2024–25	2,311	24	1.10

Fines and licence suspensions

Excise department officials said that over the past five months, nearly 10,000 liquor outlets have been booked, with fines totalling ₹12.05 crore. In addition to financial penalties, 736 licences have been suspended, particularly in districts such as Bengaluru, Koppal, Vijayapura, Ballari and Kalaburagi, which reported the highest number of MRP violations.

Consumer protection and compliance

The excise department has emphasised that all retail shops must strictly adhere to MRP guidelines. Bars, hotels and restaurants are also under scrutiny if they levy additional service charges without clearly disclosing the total cost to consumers. Officials warned that failure to comply with pricing regulations will result in both fines and licence suspensions.

Additionally, the excise department's website will soon provide detailed MRP information to help consumers identify violations and protect their interests.

Revenue significance

The fines collected from these violations contribute significantly to state revenue, which is used to fund development projects and new government initiatives. By enforcing strict adherence to MRP norms, the excise department aims to curb illegal profiteering, ensure transparency and maintain fair pricing for alcohol consumers across Karnataka.

Trusted helper steals family fortune

A New Year getaway turned into a nightmare for a Bengaluru-based family after they were forced to cancel their celebrations in Tamil Nadu upon learning that their house had been burgled. The Sadashivanagar police have arrested a couple, including a domestic help, for allegedly stealing gold jewellery, silver items and expensive watches worth ₹1.37 crore from their employer's residence.

The accused have been identified as Hazira Begum and her husband Shahir, a driver-cum-security guard. Both are natives of Assam and were residing in Koramangala. Police said Hazira had previously worked as a domestic help at the house of businessman Abhishek on 8th Main Road, Sadashivanagar, but had quit the job in 2024 following her marriage.

In December 2025, Hazira reportedly approached the family again, expressing her willingness to resume work. Trusting her due to her earlier association with the household, the family rehired her.

On December 30, Abhishek and his family left for Tamil Nadu to celebrate the New Year. Taking advantage of the vacant house, Hazira allegedly called her husband over. The couple is accused of breaking open an almirah and making away with gold jewellery, silver items, cash and seven high-end watches before fleeing.

The theft came to light when Abhishek's mother-in-law visited the house and found it locked. Using a spare key, she entered the premises and discovered the broken almirah and missing valuables. She immediately alerted the family, who rushed back to Bengaluru and lodged a complaint.

Following an investigation, police arrested the duo on Monday. Officers recovered 787 grams of gold jewellery, 291 grams of silver items and seven watches, all valued at ₹1.37 crore. Police said further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Four arrested in ₹1 crore villa theft

Domestic helpers allegedly used a trip to Maharashtra as cover for a massive house theft. Vidyaranyapura authorities have arrested four individuals over the ₹1.03 crore heist.

The accused have been identified as Narendra (28), a car driver; Manjitha Ram (28), a domestic helper from Bihar; Chandan (27), a bus driver; and Manjunath (36), a construction worker. All are residents of Doddaballapura in Bengaluru Rural district. Narendra and Manjitha Ram had been employed at the villa for the past year.

According to police, the two helpers, facing financial difficulties, were aware of the valuables inside the house. When they learned that their employer was planning a trip to Maharashtra, they allegedly conspired with their friends and provided them with a duplicate key to the rear door.

On December 23, the complainant travelled to Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra accompanied by the two helpers. Exploiting the residents' absence, the remaining accused broke into the villa and decamped with gold jewellery, silver items and cash.

The theft came to light on December 30, when the complainant returned and found the house ransacked.

A complaint was promptly lodged with the Vidyaranyapura police.

CCTV footage from the surrounding area, along with technical evidence, helped police track down two of the accused in Chitradurga on January 3. **BMB**

Joy of Cauvery water turns sour over persistent leakage

Horamavu Agara residents celebrate Cauvery water connection, but unresolved pipeline leakage threatens water quality, wastes resources and undermines trust

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Horamavu Agara were delighted three months ago when they finally received piped Cauvery water. They appreciated the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for completing the work of laying water pipelines and ensuring regular supply of Cauvery water. However, their happiness has now turned into concern due to a delay in fixing a water leakage on Horamavu Agara Road near the railway track. Residents fear that the recurring leakage is not only wasting precious drinking water but also increasing the risk of contamination. "I have complained to the BWSSB engineers, but they did nothing to fix this problem. Water is being wasted because of the negligence of BWSSB engineers. I appeal to them to visit the spot and resolve the issue to prevent further wastage of drinking water," said Sivarama Krishna, a resident.

Residents said they had complained to BWSSB engineers a few weeks ago and that officials had attended the issue, but the repair work was poorly executed. "The workers engaged by the BWSSB engineer dug up the road to fix the leakage, but a few days later water started flowing onto the road again due to substandard work. I want the BWSSB authorities to fix this problem on a permanent basis," said Sounder Rajan, another resident.

Some residents have expressed strong resentment over what they describe as the apathy and negligence of BWSSB engineers. They alleged that engineers took several weeks to visit the spot and showed little concern about the continuous wastage of treated drinking water. "I do not know what has prevented the BWSSB engineer from fixing this problem permanently. The BWSSB authorities are failing not only to ensure proper water supply but also to address leakages. Because of the wastage, many households may receive inadequate water, forcing them to depend on private water suppliers," said a resident, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, VP Krishna, Founder of the KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation, said he meets BWSSB authorities once every month to highlight water-related issues faced by residents. "I have found BWSSB engineers attending to problems related to water supply. I advise residents of Horamavu Agara to post water supply-related complaints on the Jala Mithra WhatsApp group or call 1916," he said.

Responding to the complaints, BWSSB assistant engineer Dinesh B said he had already informed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Major Roads Department about the leakage. "We cannot fix this problem during the day because of heavy traffic. We will attend to the issue tonight or tomorrow night," the assistant engineer said.

Cauvery water leakage on Horamavu Agara Road

Traffic woes a perpetual fallout

Residents complain that the road, asphalted just six months ago after water pipe installation, now needs to be dug up to fix a leakage. They expressed doubts about whether BWSSB engineers will properly restore the road afterward. The poor condition is expected to slow vehicular movement on this road, already notorious for traffic jams during peak hours. Residents also noted that three schools are nearby, with numerous school buses commuting here every morning and evening.

"I do not know why BWSSB engineers have failed to fix this problem permanently. Ongoing leakage is wasting water and may force many households to depend on private water suppliers – Resident

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

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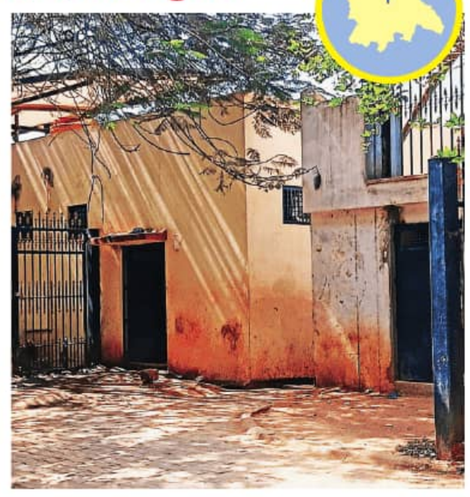
◎ Filthy walkway

Basavanagudi



Pedestrians using the approach road behind the college stadium in Shankarapura, Basavanagudi, towards the metro station face unbearable urinal stench, unhygienic surroundings, and poor lighting, making their walk uncomfortable and unsafe.

◎ Trash trouble

Basavanagudi

Garbage continues to accumulate on Bull Temple Road near BSNL Office, Basavanagudi, creating foul smell, health risks, and traffic inconvenience for residents.

◎ Impact: Manhole fixed

Raj Bhawan Road

Following coverage in these columns, the damaged manhole near GPO on Raj Bhawan Road has been repaired, restoring safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

Document Lost

I, Dr.Santhosh.M.B S/o late Mahaveer.A.B, residing at Dabaspet village, Nelamangala taluk, Bangalore rural district, stating that, the document (no.520/8/63179) of site no.06, Shivagange circle, Dabaspet while travelling from clinic to house, it has been accidentally lost. In this regard, i have filed a complaint (NCR No.878/2025) to Dabaspet Police Station on 30.12.2025. If anyone finds the said document, please contact the above address or the police station.

Land records go digital statewide

The State government has launched the next phase of its land record digitisation drive, extending scanning to Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner offices across the state. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the initiative is crucial to prevent fake entries and land records, ensuring transparency. So far, 62 crore pages out of an estimated 100 crore statewide have been scanned, with 70 of 240 taluks fully digitised. The work is expected to be completed within a few months. Suspicious records identified during the process will be sent to forensic laboratories for verification, and legal action will follow wherever irregularities are confirmed. Citizens can now access land records online, faster verification, easier, and secure, Gowda added. **— BMB**

Kannadigas get priority in housing

In a clear policy signal, the government has decided to give first preference to Kannadigas in housing allotments for families displaced from Kogilu Cross, while 25 to 30 families from Fakir Colony will receive homes within days. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting at Vidhana Soudha, where ministers agreed on phased allotment for all eligible families. However, the government adopted a firm stance on encroachments. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda made it clear that illegal occupation of government land will not be rewarded. "Handing out houses the moment a shed comes up sends the wrong signal," he said, noting that thousands are waiting patiently through legal channels. Homes will be allotted strictly as per rules. **— BMB**

More homes allowed on small plots

Good news for Bengalureans planning to build homes. The state government has finally relaxed setback rules for residential plots, unlocking more buildable space and enabling higher housing density, especially on the city's most common 60×40 foot sites. The Urban Development Department's final notification scraps the old length-width formula and introduces plot-area-based setbacks, significantly reducing mandatory open space requirements. For smaller plots, rear setbacks have been removed, while front and side margins have been reduced to less than a metre. A Greater Bengaluru Authority official said a 60×40 foot plot can now legally accommodate up to six homes instead of four, subject to road width norms. Larger plots receive similar concessions, with permission for stilt plus four floors. Setback areas can also be used for vehicle ramps and car lifts. Officials say changes will ease housing pressure significantly across Bengaluru citywide. **— BMB**

55 patients lost in 20 months

Between January 2024 and August 2025, 55 patients visiting NIMHANS for treatment or consultation disappeared, according to police reports filed at Siddapura station. Some went missing from NIMHANS, while others vanished from Kidwai Memorial Hospital. Most disappeared during routine activities such as paying bills, collecting medicines, or interacting with staff. NIMHANS officials said patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or intellectual disabilities sometimes wander off unexpectedly. The institute uses CCTV monitoring, incident reporting, and coordination with NGOs to trace missing patients. —BMB

60 stolen two-wheelers worth ₹50 lakh recovered

Four out-of-state persons have been arrested by the KR Pura police for their alleged involvement in a large-scale two-wheeler theft racket, with the police seizing 60 stolen vehicles worth approximately Rs 50 lakh.

The case came to light after a resident of Ayyappa Nagar lodged a complaint on November 11, 2025, stating that his two-wheeler, parked at his house on November 7, was found missing when he returned from his village two days later. Based on the complaint, a theft case was registered at the KR Pura Police Station.

Police tracked the suspects to Odagattur in Tamil Nadu, where two accused were arrested on December 8. Further questioning led to the arrests of two more accomplices near the Gandhinagar bus stand in Coimbatore.

Police are continuing efforts to trace the owners of the vehicles and nab three absconding accomplices. —BMB

Wanted criminal seeks police protection from wife

A notorious rowdy-sheeter, known for evading the police, with pending warrants against him, reportedly walked into a police station seeking protection after he was allegedly attacked by his first wife.

The accused, identified as Syed Asghar, a rowdy-sheeter with multiple criminal cases, allegedly approached the JJ Nagar Police Station, claiming that his first wife attacked him after learning that he had married a second time. In his complaint, he alleged that she broke his hand, punched him in the eye and stabbed him with a knife during the altercation. Shortly thereafter, his first wife also approached the police, reportedly seeking protection.

Police confirmed that a case has been registered and further investigations are underway. —BMB

Stop flexing, say citizens

B'lureans demand action against rising instances of flexes, posters and banners displayed by political parties across city, arguing that such posters deface public spaces

KAUSHIK JN

Banners, posters and flexes across city are often displayed to convey greetings and birthday wishes

Removal alone is not enough, authorities must enforce law with firmness and strict fines are essential to deter such actions, says civic activist

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Bengaluru are calling for the city's lost charm to be reclaimed, urging authorities to crack down on the unchecked spread of banners, posters, and flexes that have turned public spaces into eyesores. Despite clear directions from the Karnataka High Court to enforce a ban and hold violators accountable, the Bengaluru City Corporation (BCC) and jurisdictional police appear slow to act, allowing the menace to persist as political parties compete for visibility across the city.

The proactive zeal of an assistant engineer from the Byatarayanapura Sub-Division of Bengaluru North City Corporation has drawn mixed reactions from residents keen on keeping the city clean. Mahantesh Kumar, the engineer in question, lodged a complaint with Amruthahalli Police against an unidentified individual for pasting two posters on an electrical transformer stating that Minister for Revenue and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda had gone missing. Based on the complaint, Amruthahalli Police registered a first information report (FIR No 0003/2026 dated January 3, 2026) under Section 3 of Karnataka Open Places Disfigurement Act 1951 & 1981. The culprit is liable for imprisonment of six months or a penalty of Rs 1000, or both.

Residents and activists urged Bengaluru's civic bodies to file complaints against those responsible for erecting banners, posters, and flexes used to convey greetings and best wishes. They pointed out that it has become routine for supporters of politicians, lawmakers, and ministers to plaster the city with oversized displays throughout the year, under one pretext or another.

"Despite clear court rulings against the use of flex banners, the practice continues blatantly across the city. The Greater Bengaluru Authority must enforce the law with firmness, removal alone is not enough. Strict fines and penalties are essential to deter this defacement of public property," said Vinod Jacob, civic activist.

Demanding authorities concerned to take similar action against those putting up posters in other parts of the city, GR Mohan, who was an advocate for a PIL filed in Karnataka High Court against illegal banners, flexes, and posters, opined that the authorities are turning a blind eye towards illegal banners, posters, and flexes at many places in the city.

Purushotham V, a resident of Annaswamy Mudaliyar Road, expressed appreciation towards authorities for registering the FIR, but noted that the same zeal is not shown for other posters in the city. "Just a drive from Halasuru Lake to Cantonment Railway Station will show the posters of politicians in all sizes glaring at you, spoiling the beauty of every junction," Purushotham remarked.

HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedike, said, "I am of the opinion that City Corporation authorities, especially ward engineers, are suffering from blurred vision problem. They are pretending that no illegal posters and banners exist in the city."

BM WoW Wednesday
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9591233247
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Duo arrested for laptop thefts; devices worth ₹40 lakh seized

The Electronic City police have arrested two out-of-state men, a laptop technician and an autorickshaw driver, in connection with a series of laptop thefts from paying guest (PG) accommodations across Bengaluru and recovered 48 laptops of various companies, collectively valued at Rs 40 lakh.

The case came to light following a complaint filed at the Electronic City Police Station on December 1, 2025, by a resident of a PG on Abbayya Street, Dodda Togur. In his complaint, the victim stated that between 10.30 pm on November 28 and 10.30 am on November 29, unknown persons entered his PG room through an open door and stole three laptops belonging to him and his friends. A case was registered and investigation was taken up.

During the course of the investigation, police gathered inputs from informants and tracked one suspect to Mandavalli Circle in Kalakurchi district of Tamil Nadu. The accused identified as Gautam (30), a laptop service technician was taken into custody on December 11, 2025, and during interrogation confessed to the theft. He also revealed that, along with his associate identified as Rajadorai (33), an autorickshaw driver, he had stolen laptops from several PGs across Bengaluru. Based on information provided by him, police arrested his accomplice on December 19, 2025, from Attibele.

With these arrests, police have solved 10 laptop theft cases, including nine in Electronic City and one in Bandepalya. Efforts are on to trace the owners of the laptops, and further investigation is underway. —BMB

Two held for peddling MDMA during New Year celebrations

Two persons were arrested by the Ashok Nagar police for allegedly peddling MDMA during New Year celebrations, leading to the seizure of narcotics worth Rs 3.5 crore.

The accused have been identified as Syed Tariq Iqbal (33), a resident of Banaswadi and a business analyst employed with a private firm, and Shaik Mohammed Arbaz (29), a resident of Kadugodi who works as a pre-owned car dealer. Police said the duo had allegedly procured 3.2 kg of MDMA crystals from a foreign national and were planning to sell the drugs to youths frequenting pubs and party zones in the city on New Year's Eve.

Both have been produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

Police officials said further investigations are underway to trace the foreign supplier and to identify other possible links in the drug network operating in the city. —BMB

Siddaramaiah becomes K'taka's longest-serving Chief Minister

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah surpasses Devaraj Urs in tenure, extends his budget record, and sparks debate over whether he will complete two five-year terms in Karnataka

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Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being greeted by the public during a press conference, in Mysuru on Tuesday

The Wednesday marked a new chapter in the political history of Karnataka as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah broke the long-standing record of Devaraj Urs to become Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister.

With this milestone, Siddaramaiah has completed 2,793 days in office, surpassing Urs' seven-and-a-half-year tenure at the helm of the state. Devaraj Urs is remembered for his transformative social justice agenda and landmark land reforms that reshaped Karnataka's political landscape. Urs had held office continuously without a break, a distinction that underscored the stability of his leadership during a critical phase in the state's political evolution.

Siddaramaiah's journey, however, has unfolded across two separate terms. His first stint, from 2013 to 2018, accounted for 1,829 days in office. The 2018 Assembly elections resulted in a fractured mandate, leading to a brief JD(S)-Congress coalition government headed by H D Kumaraswamy. This was followed by BJP-led governments under B S Yediyurappa and later Basavaraj Bommai.

Bangalore Mirror
Siddaramaiah set to become Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister in history

BM had reported on Jan 2 about Siddaramaiah nearing Devaraj Urs record, achieved as Karnataka's longest-serving CM.

The political tide turned again in 2023, when the Congress returned to power with a decisive mandate, reinstating Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister for a second term. His return marked a significant consolidation of the party's position in the state after years of political flux.

Beyond longevity in office, Siddaramaiah's record also extends to the state's finances. He has already presented 16 budgets, the highest number by any Chief Minister in Karnataka's history, and is now preparing to present his 17th budget for the 2026–27 fiscal year. This has further reinforced his imprint on the state's political and economic narrative. Political analysts note that a key question now is whether Siddaramaiah will go on to create another record by becoming the only Chief Minister in Karnataka to complete two full five-year terms, or whether there could be a change in leadership midway through the current term.

Crossing 2,793 days in office, Siddaramaiah rewrites Karnataka's political history, pairing longevity with fiscal influence, even as uncertainty remains over whether he will finish a rare second full term

Reacting to the milestone, Siddaramaiah said he was not concerned about records and had never entered politics with that objective. He said his focus remained on fighting social inequality and working towards justice for all. Describing the achievement as coincidental, he said public life had given him personal satisfaction, adding that while he was confident of completing his term, the final decision rested with the party leadership.

Fasten your seatbelts or you may enter a world of pain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become so tight from disuse that I couldn't even fasten it. During Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Month in January, we are seeing several ignored violations being highlighted more through awareness than fines. In my personal experience, I survived a serious accident in Maharashtra before, and only my seat belt saved me," said a senior traffic police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The officer also pointed out that a worrying trend is children standing or leaning out of sunroofs, while the parents are wearing seat belts.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), not wearing seat belts continues to cause a large number of deaths in India. In 2022, 16,715 people including 8,384 drivers and 8,331 passengers died due to not using seat belts. In 2023, the number was slightly lower but still high, at 16,025 deaths.

According to a study by Local Circles in 2022, seven out of 10 Indians surveyed never wear a seat belt when travelling on the rear seat of a vehicle.

Traffic officials say many motorists treat seat belts as optional, especially during short trips or while travelling within city limits. In several cases, drivers wear seat belts only to avoid fines, while passengers, particularly those seated in the rear, ignore the rule altogether. Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) carry out seat belt awareness drives including regular checks at major junctions and educational interactions and social media posts on road safety. During special road safety campaigns, police teams explain how seat belts reduce the impact of crashes and protect lives in schools and other institutes, pointed out a traffic police official.

Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to prevent death and serious injuries in motor vehicle accidents," says Dr Palak Dengla, Chief Physiotherapist at Aster RV Hospital. "Seat belts prevent passengers from being ejected from the seat or colliding with the windshield or dashboard during a crash. Many people rely on airbags, but seat belts are essential as they complement the effectiveness of airbags."

According to a study by Local Circles in 2022, seven out of 10 Indians surveyed never wear a seat belt when travelling on the rear seat of a vehicle

She adds, "As physiotherapists, we follow the three-point rule for proper seat belt use: the lap belt should sit low across the hips and pelvis, while the shoulder belt should cross the chest and sternum, away from the neck. Proper usage is important for everyone, including pregnant women and children. For expectant mothers, the lap belt should rest below the abdomen, without pressing on the belly."

Dr. Dengla explains the consequences of not wearing a seat belt. "In the emergency room, we frequently see fractures of the pelvis, knees, and limbs caused by seat belt neglect. Traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and whiplash are also common. Improper seat belt use can even lead to abdominal and vascular injuries, sometimes referred to as seat belt syndrome. Using a seat belt consistently may seem simple, but it is one of the most effective ways to protect ourselves and prevent long-term injuries in road traffic accidents."

A traffic police official said they often see accidents where serious injuries or fatalities could have been prevented if the driver or passenger had buckled up. "During our regular checks and awareness drives, we find that a large number of people, especially rear-seat passengers, ignore seat belt laws. A seat belt takes two seconds to fasten but can save ones life in an instant."

Have we dug ourselves into a hole?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rs 22,000 and Rs 26,000. By October, prices had surged to nearly Rs 48,000 per bit. In absolute terms, this is an increase of up to Rs 26,000 per unit, translating to a steep rise of around 85 to 118 percent within a few months. "One bit can drill roughly 1,800 to 2,000 feet in hard granite before the buttons wear out and need re-tipping," said Ramesh, a borewell operator from Yelahanka. "When the cost of a bit almost doubles, there is no way operators can absorb it. The increase inevitably gets passed on to the customer."

New rate card

Till December last year, borewell drilling in and around Bengaluru cost between Rs 75 and Rs 100 per foot, depending on the hardness of the rock. Areas closer to the city outskirts and parts of north Bengaluru typically faced higher rates due to tougher strata. Now, borewell owners' associations have revised and standardised prices. The new base rate ranges from Rs 95 to Rs 120 per foot. Beyond 300 feet, drilling becomes progressively expensive. For every additional 100 feet after 300 feet, the rate increases by Rs 10. At 400 feet, it rises by Rs 20; at 500 feet, Rs 30; and by 900 feet, the cost touches Rs 220 per foot. For a 600-foot borewell, a common depth in many Bengaluru localities, the additional burden compared to last year is around Rs 30,000.

For many Bengalureans, borewells remain a reluctant necessity rather than a choice. "We know groundwater is depleting, but what option do we have?" asked Anitha S, a resident of Whitefield. "BWSSB supply is irregular in summer. Our apartment is planning a new borewell, but the quote is shocking." Independent homeowners echo the concern. "I drilled a borewell in 2023 for about Rs 5.5 lakh. This year, the same depth is crossing Rs 6.8 lakh," said Prakash M, a homeowner in Kengeri. "There is no guarantee of water, but without a borewell, daily life becomes impossible." Apartment associations say costs are hitting maintenance budgets. "We are being forced to revise monthly charges because water expenses have shot up," said a resident welfare association member from Sarjapur Road.

Demand refuses to dip

Despite warnings from groundwater experts and repeated calls to curb indiscriminate drilling, demand for borewells in Bengaluru remains steady. Borewell operators say enquiries have picked up since January, especially in newly developed layouts and peripheral areas where Cauvery water supply has not reached. Farmer leader KT Manjunath urged policy intervention. "Under the Make in India programme, the Centre must promote domestic manufacturing of drilling bits and raw materials. Farmers and city consumers should not suffer due to international supply disruptions," he said by adding that with borewell costs rising and groundwater falling, Bengaluru's water crisis is fast becoming both an environmental and economic challenge.

Court notice over RSS remark: 'Intimidation tactics'

Priyank Kharge hits back after heat builds over his questions about RSS, its funding and existence

INFOCUS KHARGE VS RSS

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday dismissed reports of a special court in Bengaluru issuing a notice to him over his comments on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), calling it an attempt to use "intimidation tactics" against those raising valid questions about the organisation.

"They are trying intimidation tactics; it's nothing new. We are raising valid questions about the RSS, its funding and its existence. Just because you are a body of individuals, show me one rule in the country that says you should not be registered," Kharge said, emphasising that accountability applies to all institutions in the country.

"In a country where temples are held accountable, NGOs are held accountable, and other associations of persons and bodies of individuals are held accountable, why is the RSS not held accountable? This is going to happen. The Constitution is still alive in India. The RSS is not above the Constitution, nor am I," he added.

Earlier in the day, Kharge shared an article on the social media platform X that reported a special court had issued notices to him and fellow state minister Dinesh Gundurao in connection with a defamation complaint filed by an RSS member.

In his post, Kharge cited RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement that the organisation operates on donations from its volunteers and raised questions about the transparency of its operations.

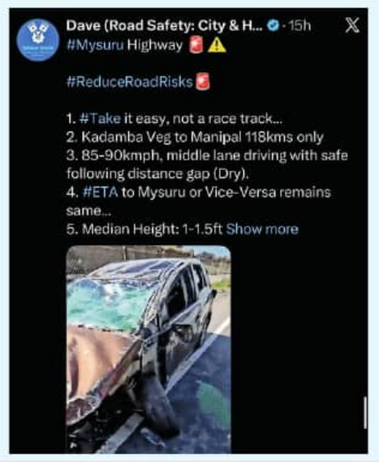
"The 'body of individuals' is using its stooges to file cases against us simply because we are raising valid questions about the RSS. The RSS is the biggest impediment to the growth of the nation. A recap: Mr Bhagwat has stated that the RSS functions through donations made by its volunteers. However, several legitimate questions arise regarding this claim: Who are these volunteers and how are they identified? What is the scale and nature of the donations made? Through what mechanisms or channels are these contributions received?" he said.

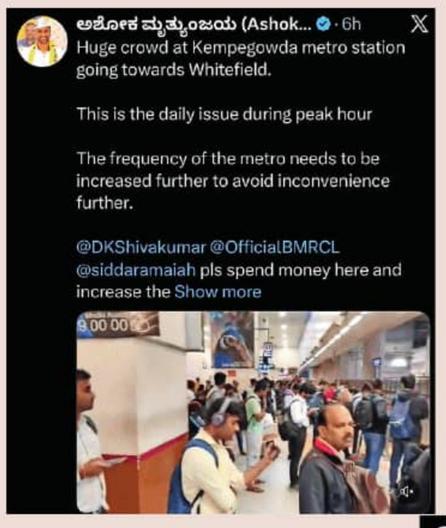
He further questioned, "If the RSS operates transparently, why are donations not made directly to the organisation under its own registered identity? How does the RSS sustain its financial and organisational structure without being a registered entity? Who compensates full-time pracharaks and meets the organisation's routine operational expenses? How are large-scale events, campaigns and outreach activities financed?"

Kharge also asked, "When swayamsevaks purchase uniforms or materials from 'local offices', where are these funds accounted for? Who bears the cost of maintaining local offices and other infrastructure? These questions underscore a fundamental issue of transparency and accountability. Why does the RSS continue to remain unregistered despite its vast national presence and influence? When every religious or charitable institution in India is required to maintain financial transparency, what justifies the absence of similar accountability mechanisms for the RSS?" — ANI

SOCIALTATTLE

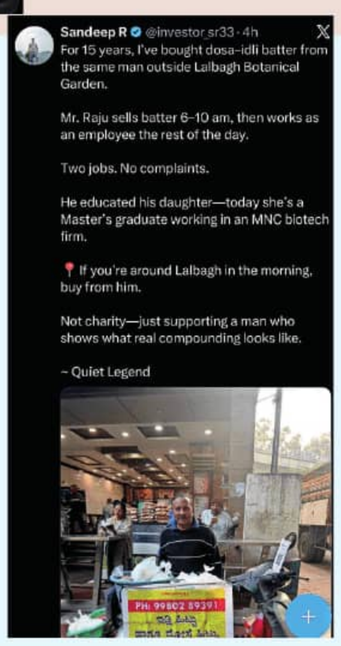
What's tweeting
A social media user flagged serious safety concerns after a car accident on the Mysuru Highway, urging motorists to slow down, maintain lane discipline and safe distances. The post highlights low medians, lack of crash barriers, and unsafe entry–exit points, stressing that overspeeding doesn't reduce travel time.


Dave (Road Safety: City & H... · 15h
#Mysuru Highway
#ReduceRoadRisks
1. #Take it easy, not a race track...
2. Kadamba Veg to Manipal 118kms only
3. 85-90kmph, middle lane driving with safe following distance gap (Dry).
4. #ETA to Mysuru or Vice-Versa remains same...
5. Median Height: 1-1.5ft Show more


ಅಶೋಕ ಮೃತ್ಯುಂಜಯ (Ashok... · 6h
Huge crowd at Kempegowda metro station going towards Whitefield.
This is the daily issue during peak hour
The frequency of the metro needs to be increased further to avoid inconvenience further.
@DKShivakumar @OfficialBMRCL @siddaramaiah pls spend money here and increase the Show more

Citizen highlighted
severe overcrowding at Kempegowda Metro station towards Whitefield during peak hours. Calling it a daily struggle for commuters, the post urged the government and BMRCL to increase train frequency to ease congestion and improve commuter safety.

That went viral
@investor_Sr33 posted about Mr. Raju, a dosa idli batter seller outside Lalbagh, who has worked tirelessly for 15 years. Balancing two jobs, he educated his daughter, now an MNC biotech professional an example of quiet perseverance and dignity.


Sandeep R @investor_sr33 · 4h
For 15 years, I've bought dosa-idli batter from the same man outside Lalbagh Botanical Garden.
Mr. Raju sells batter 6–10 am, then works as an employee the rest of the day.
Two jobs. No complaints.
He educated his daughter—today she's a Master's graduate working in an MNC biotech firm.
If you're around Lalbagh in the morning, buy from him.
Not charity—just supporting a man who shows what real compounding looks like.
– Quiet Legend

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Rajasthan crushed as Karnataka march on

Skipper Mayank Agarwal and Devdutt Padikkal continued their rich vein of form as the Karnataka openers shared a huge partnership to help their team crush Rajasthan by 150 runs and secure a spot in the Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-finals here on Tuesday.
The sixth-round Group A game turned into a lopsided contest, with Mayank (100 off 107 balls) slamming his second century of the ongoing tournament, while Padikkal (91 off 82 balls) missed his fifth ton by just nine runs as Karnataka emerged as a leading contender for the title this season by carving out a massive 324 for 7.
India pacer Prasidh Krishna (5/36) then made a huge impact with the ball, grabbing a five-for as Rajasthan crumbled for 174 in 38 overs.
Star-studded Karnataka, following their sixth successive convincing win, are leading the group with 24 points, while Kerala, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh are joint second on 16 points, separated by Net Run Rate (NRR). All three teams are in contention to book a quarter-final berth.
Tamil Nadu and Tripura are placed fifth and sixth respectively, with eight points each. PTI

Dutch drop big guns for India tie

The Netherlands have left out their top-ranked singles players Tallon Griekspoor and Botic van de Zandschulp from their four-member team for the Davis Cup Qualifiers tie against India in Bengaluru on February 7–8.
Griekspoor, currently the Dutch No.1 and ranked 25th in the world in singles, and former world No.22 Van de Zandschulp, now ranked 75th, were notable omissions from the squad named by the Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Association.
The Dutch challenge will instead be led by Jesper de Jong, ranked 71st in singles, along with Guy den Ouden, who is placed 158th. The doubles challenge will be spearheaded by David Pel, the world No.27 in the ATP doubles rankings, and Sander Arends, ranked 35th.
The Netherlands are hosting an ATP 500 event in Rotterdam around the same time, which may have influenced their decision in announcing the team. The Dutch were without Griekspoor in their previous tie against Argentina as well, losing 1–3 in the Qualifiers Round II. De Jong made his debut in that tie and was the only player to win a match, while Van de Zandschulp lost his singles rubber and later the doubles alongside Arends.
The India–Netherlands tie will be played at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association Stadium, with India aiming to make home conditions count against a Dutch side missing its most experienced singles campaigners.
India will be led by Sumit Nagal (ranked 275th) and Dhakshineswar Suresh (ranked 521st). Karan Singh (ranked 466th) is the third singles option for the hosts, while Yuki Bhambri (ranked 21st) and Rithvik Bollipalli (ranked 91st) will handle the doubles rubber.
"The Netherlands' squad misses their top singles players, boosting India's prospects," Davis Cup coach Ashutosh Singh told PTI.
"Indian players are gaining form through pre-season training and the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger at KSLTA, where Sumit Nagal and Dhakshineswar have also gained experience against top players like Daniil Medvedev and Gael Monfils."
KSLTA is hosting India's biggest ATP 125 Challenger, featuring the country's top players. PTI

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lakshmananayka R/o No.2, 2nd flr, 3rd cross, someshwara layout, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name name to Lakshmananayaka. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Uma Basuli w/o Surajit Roy R/o No.63, Bowring Hospital road,Tasker town, Bengaluru 560001 have changed my name to UMA ROY. I shall be called by this name for all purpuses

I, Shubhangi Chakole W/o Anurag Tulsiram Wanjari R/o D-423,brigade Meadows Wisteria, Saaluhunase, Kaggalipura B'lore 560082 have changed my name to Shubhangi Anurag Wanjari.

I, SHAFI R/o No 22 5th cross new Guruppanpalya Bangalore 560029 have changed my name to SHAFIULLA for All Purposes

I Anshu Anand Hedau W/O, Animesh Malviya R/o Bangalore have changed my name to Anshu Hedau.

I, ARUMUGAM MUNIAN (Old Name) R/at G013-Kalpa Arowana 11th Cross Brindavan layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-566043 have changed my name to GOWRISHANKAR MUNIYAPPA REDDY (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 6/1/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, Tararam Kumar S/o Tilokram R/o No 22, 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, Lavakushnagar, Laggere, B'luru 560058 have changed my name to T.Tararam Kumar for all purposes.

I, Sudhindra S/o Selvaraj K S R/o #3/A, Kurisinkal House, 14th Cross, Adityanagar 1st Stage, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura Post, B'luru-560097 have changed my name to Sudhindra S for all purposes.

I TASNEEM MUSTAFA w/o MUSTAFA R/@ No 307/217/328/8 6th Cross Noble Residency Kudlu Bangalore 560068 had changed my name to TASNEEM MUSTAFA MOTOR WALA for all purposes.

I, PRALHAD, S/o Bhimrao Kulkarni, resident of "Shri GURU KRUPA" Plot No. 27, GDA Layout, Ambika Nagar, Kalaburagi, Karnataka State, have changed my name to PRALHAD KULKARNI, vide affidavit dt: 04.07.2016, Notary K. Mahadevappa, Gulbarga.

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I Yeshoda Krishna Reddy , R/o 258/4 , 4th main road, HSR layout, Sector -7 Bangalore - 560102 have changed my name to Yeshodha S (Sunkappa Reddy) Affidavit Date : 6.1.2026 Sworn Before Notary K C Shashikala Bangalore

I Pavanesh V K Has Corrected My Name From Paavanesh V Kallingal To Pavanesh V K And Father Sure Name From Venugopal K N To K N Venugopal Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru

I, Namrata Chellani, w/o Ishwar Sawnani, R/o E-1126,DS Max Sky Classic, Hhulimangala Rd, Tirupalya, Hebbagodi, B'luru-560099, have changed my name to Namrata Sawnani for all Purposes.

I, Ashwin S/O Shridhar Bhat born on 4th Feb 2010 residing at #24,MEG Layout, Bangalore 560016 have changed my name to Ashwin Bhat vide affidavit dated 3rd Jan 2026 at Bangalore

I, Aditya Sharma, R/o Flat No. B-1, 2nd floor, Kingston Court, 9th Cross, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 560032 have changed my name to Aditya Jagdeesh Sharma

I, Bhavya V, w/o Chandru S, R/o No.123, 13th main Raghavendra Block, Srinagar, Bangalore 560050, have changed my name to Bhavya Chandru for all Purposes.

I, IMTHIYAZ AHMED SUBHAN, R/a #5/5, Thimmaiah Road, Shivajinagar Bangalore–51 I, have Changed my name to IMTIYAZ AHMED, Vide affidavit, dated 06/01/2026 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra Bangalore

I, SRINIVASA G, S/o Ganganarasaiah, R/o Thippanahalli near Anjaneya Temple, Nagasandra Post, Ganganarasappa Badavane, Bengaluru – 560073 have changed my name from SRINIVASA G to SRINIVAS G at Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, LAXMI NARAYANA KAUP, S/o, K Ravindra Shenoy, residing at No.202, SLN Residency, 1st Cross, 2nd Stage, Kamla Nagar Market, Gruhalakshmi Layout, Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru-560079 have changed my name to K LAXMINARAYANA SHENOY, vide affidavit dt: 22.12.2025, before notary M.K Venkatramana, Bengaluru

I,SHIRIN TAJ ILIYAZ SHAREEF, (Old Name), R/a No.18th Cross, Roshan Nagar, Slum Board, Modi Road, DJ Halli,, Bengaluru-45, I, have Changed my name to SHERIN TAJ (New Name), Vide affidavit, dated 06/01/2026 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra Bangalore-

I, Rupam Kumari W/o Abhishek R/o B-508, Brigade Meadows Westeria, Kanakapur Rd, Saluhunase, Kaggalipura, B'lore 560082 have changed my name to Rupam Sharan

I Gummireddy Sreelatha born on 10th May 1983 W/o.Badveli Kiran kumar Reddy, R/o #201, Cosmos Calista Apt, 9th Main, NRI Layout, Kalkere, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to "BADVELI SREELATHA".Vide Affidavit Dt 05-01-2026 sworn before the Notary Puttaramaiah, Bangalore.

I Sanket Shenvi (Old Name), S/o Venkatesh Vaman Shenvi, R/a. 109, Block 2, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra Layout, Bangalore - 40 hereby declare that my name is changed to Sanket Venkatesh Shenvi (New Name), vide affidavit dated 03-01-2026 sworn before Notary H.S Sakalesh Aradhya.

I, Thugu Jayarami Reddy, aged about 64 years, Residing at No. 17/2, Shiva Reddy layout, Naganathapura, Electronic City, DIST: Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560100 , do hereby declare that I have changed my Wife name from "Lalitamma Thugu" to "Thugu Thulasamma", henceforth she shall be known and called as "Thugu Thulasamma" for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 06-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary at V Rangaraju Bangalore.

I, Mohammed Javed Akhter (New Name) previously called Mohammad Jawed Akhter (Old Name), C/o. Noor Zadi, R/o. #36/B, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, 1st Main Road, Doctor's Layout, BG Road, Arakere Village, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560 076 solemnly declare that I changed my name from Mohammed Jawed Akhter to Mohammed Javed Akhter vide affidavit dated 02nd January 2026 before Notary & Advocate M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, GIRISH RAMCHANDANI, Residing at No 1157, 18th B Main, 2nd Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to GIRISH KUMAR vide affidavit dated 05/01/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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GET NOTICED

I, SUHAIL PERVEEZE, R/at No.1879, 'G' Floor, Margondana halli, Near Makka Masjid, Shikaripalya Hulimangala, Jigini, Bengaluru-560105. Have changed my name to SUHAIL PARVEEZ. Vide Affdavit dt 05.01.2025, before notary V Rajashekhara. B.lore

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to enter into Joint Development Agreement for redevelopment of the entire 248 residential sites (i.e., Site Nos. 01 to 248) in the Layout known as **"CAPITAL HILLS"** carved out of Survey Nos. 49, 50, 63/1, 63/2 and 64 more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder with its owners, **(1) Smt. Zubeda Bano**, wife of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama, **(2) Ms. Syeda Hafsa Tabassum**, daughter of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama, **(3) Ms. Syeda Omaima Tabassum**, daughter of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama, **(4) Sri. Syed Abdul Aziz**, son of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama **(5) Master Syed Abdullah**, son of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama **(6) Kumari Syeda Tahura Fatima**, daughter of Late Syed Ali Uz Zama and **(7) Sri. Syed Rafi Uz Zama**, son of Late Syed Khaleel Uz Zama ("Owners"). The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and they have a good marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property. The Owners further represent that, apart from the Agreement for Development with possession dated 10/10/2017 entered with Sri. Mohammed Majid and others and the Deed of Development Agreement dated 03/10/2019 entered with (1) Sri. Mohammed Jaffer Ali Khan, (2) Sri. Mohammed Jahangeer, (3) Sri. Mohammed Gafoor Khan and (4) Sri. Mohammed Ishaq Khan registered vide Document No. BGP-1-02749-2019-2020 of Book – I, stored in C.D. No. BGPD310, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bagepalli, they have not entered into any other Agreements/MoU with any third party and that the Owners have not mortgaged nor created any right, interest, lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner with any person/s and that they have not relinquished any portion of the Schedule Property to the DTCP/concerned planning authority for formation of roads, civic amenities etc. Any person/s having objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claims within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

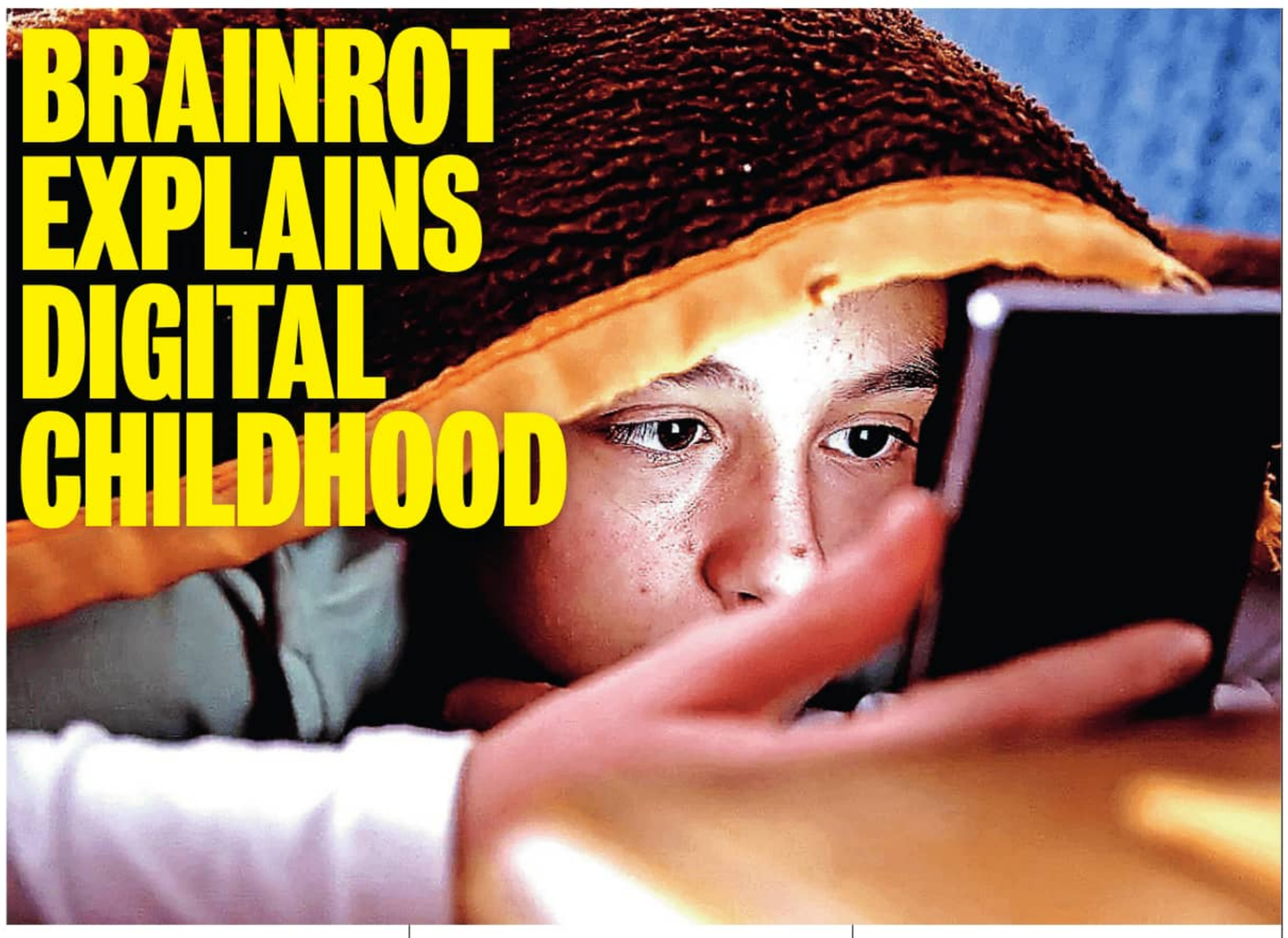
SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the entire 248 residential sites (i.e., Site Nos. 01 to 248) in the Layout known as "CAPITAL HILLS", carved out of Survey Nos. 49, 50, 63/1, 63/2 and 64, measuring in total 15 acres 35 guntas, situated at Konda Reddy Palli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and the Composite Land is bounded on the: East by: Properties bearing Survey Nos. 48/1, 65 and 69; West by: Properties bearing Survey Nos. 54 and 55; North by: Road; and South by: Property bearing Survey No. 62.

Date: 06.01.2026
Bengaluru

Sd/-
Jayanth M Pattanshetti,
Sushanth J Pattanshetti,
Advocates,
Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates LLP,
102, Ground Floor,
"Rams Infantry Manor",
No. 70 Infantry Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001.
Ph. 25593195/9980530355

BRAINROT EXPLAINS DIGITAL CHILDHOOD



Chaotic memes shaping humour play learning social bonds digital generation

Brainrot" is a term many people use to describe the chaotic, fast-moving memes, sounds and catchphrases spreading across TikTok, Roblox and online gaming, eventually spilling into classrooms and playgrounds. One familiar example is the endlessly repeated chant of "six-seven", which continues to echo through homes and schools, often baffling or irritating teachers and parents.

Yet this behaviour isn't new. Anyone who has quoted "I'll be back" in a mock Arnold Schwarzenegger voice or repeated "you talkin' to me?" has participated in an earlier form of brainrot. Repeating and remixing memorable lines from popular culture has always been part of how people connect socially.

What has changed is the source of these references. For children growing up in a digital-first world, quotable moments no longer come primarily from films or television. Instead, they emerge from TikTok edits, Roblox streams, speedrun memes, Minecraft modifications and the fast-paced humour of online gaming communities.

To adults, hearing a child chant "Skibidi dop dop dop yes yes" or repeat a surreal line from a Roblox non-player character can sound like meaningless noise. To young people, however, these fragments fit neatly into a highly referential, fast-moving style of humour. Today's brainrot is quicker, more layered and deliberately chaotic, with the chaos itself forming part of the appeal.

Although the word "brainrot" is often used ironically, remixing media fragments has always helped people bond. These shared references form a kind of second language made up of sounds, rhythms and jokes that create belonging. In many ways, this playful communication offers lightness in a world that can otherwise feel slow and overly structured.

Changing play

Brainrot is also reshaping how children play online. Many adults grew up with games built around structure and progression. Titles such as Pokémon, Zelda or Half-Life emphasised goals, quests and clear endings. Even open-world games followed an underlying design logic.

Those experiences influenced how adults later thought about play, creativity and even game design. Structure, narrative and pacing felt essential.

Observing children today challenges those assumptions. Their digital play is often fluid, fragmented and intensely social rather than focused on long story arcs. Children jump seamlessly between Roblox games, short TikTok videos, chaotic Minecraft mods and meme-based jokes without losing coherence. What may look like overstimulation to adults is, for them, a form of digital fluency.

They are skilled at stitching together references, humour, audio, visuals and interaction at speed. This is a form of literacy shaped by the platforms they inhabit.

Brainrot and research

From a research perspective, this shift highlights how online engagement constantly evolves. Young people are not abandoning meaningful play; they are responding to a radically different digital environment.

Some studies raise concerns. Research has found associations between heavy use of short-form video apps and poorer sleep or higher stress in adolescents. Other analyses report correlations between frequent short-form consumption and lower attention scores. However, these findings do not establish causation. It remains unclear whether fast, fragmented content changes attention, or whether certain cognitive styles are simply drawn to it.

These insights have influenced how educational games and learning tools are designed. Instead of assuming attention must be sustained in one direction, designers increasingly consider modular play, short bursts of curiosity and meaning emerging through participation rather than instruction.

While brainrot itself may not be replicated in classrooms, its qualities — pace, remixing and playful collaboration — offer useful inspiration for engaging young minds.

To understand why brainrot resonates, it helps to see it as social communication rather than meaningless noise. These references function as inside jokes that can be endlessly remixed. Understanding them allows children to riff, combine and subvert ideas, signalling belonging within peer groups.

There is also strong self-awareness in brainrot culture. Its absurdity is intentional and often ironic, echoing earlier cultural movements that embraced nonsense and playful subversion. Importantly, this is not simply content imposed by algorithms. Brainrot is created, adapted and sustained collectively by young people themselves.

Far from signalling disengagement or lack of imagination, brainrot reflects how children make sense of a fast, fragmented digital world overflowing with ideas.

Oli Buckley, Lilly Casey-Green and Patrick Scaife Loughborough University Loughborough (UK), (The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Why orange juice tastes awful

Have you ever brushed your teeth and then taken a sip of orange juice, only to be shocked by how awful it tastes? It's a common mistake, and one most people make only once. The strange, bitter flavor isn't because orange juice suddenly goes bad — it's because of what toothpaste does to your mouth.

The main reason lies in a detergent found in most toothpaste called sodium lauryl sulfate. This ingredient helps remove dental plaque by breaking down fats. While that's great for keeping your teeth clean, it also temporarily affects your taste buds, which are partly made of fats called lipids.

Taste buds work by using special receptors on the tongue that detect sweet, bitter, salty and sour flavors. Sweet and bitter tastes rely on receptors embedded in fatty cell membranes, while salty and sour tastes are detected through charged particles passing directly into taste cells. When you brush your teeth, the detergent disrupts the fatty membranes of these taste receptors, altering how they send signals to your brain.

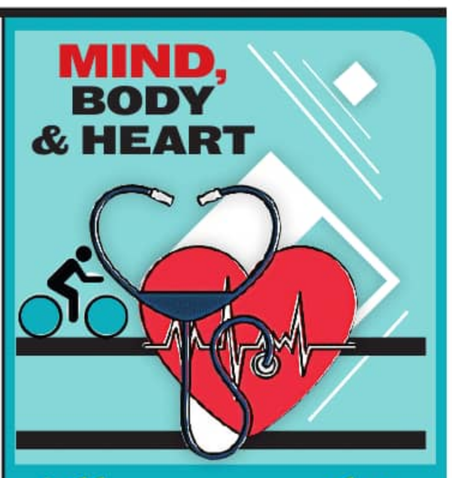
Orange juice is a mix of sweetness from natural sugars and sourness from citric acid. Under normal conditions, this balance tastes refreshing. But after brushing, the disruption caused by toothpaste reduces sweetness and enhances bitterness. As a result, the sour part of orange juice takes on an unpleasant bitter edge.

This effect is temporary and usually fades within a few minutes as your taste receptors recover. That's why dentists still strongly recommend brushing your teeth regularly — the benefits far outweigh a brief taste disturbance.

Researchers have even tested this effect in experiments, finding that toothpaste particularly changes how sour foods are perceived, making them taste more bitter than usual.

So if you want to enjoy your morning orange juice, it's best to drink it before brushing your teeth — or wait a little while after brushing before taking that first sip.

—Linda Bartoshuk, George Washington University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

How to prevent a fatty liver?

Here are a few methods to prevent or reverse a fatty liver in early stages:

1 Balanced diet
Have a balanced diet, cut out all the processed foods, and have home-cooked meals only, full of love and nutrition. They provide your body with all that it needs. Keep a check on your sugar intake, and eat only when you are hungry, not to suppress your emotions. Stay hydrated, as thirst is often mistaken as hunger.

2 Active lifestyle
Live an active lifestyle; try to walk whenever possible. This will not only make you healthier but also help reduce your carbon footprint. Aim to exercise for at least 60 minutes every morning. If typical workout styles don't appeal to you, play any outdoor sport or try any dance form. There are millions of options—just sweat a little each day.

3 Beauty sleep
A long, uninterrupted rest is what your body needs. There have been countless studies which have proven that a minimum of 8 hours of sleep is necessary, especially for women, as they use more brain power than men.

4 Stress-free
Everyone is stressed nowadays, whether it's a kid in school, a woman in her workplace, or a retired woman at her house. Plus, society in the name of progress now expects women to juggle the jobs of homemaker and breadwinner together, and if you complain, then you're not the strong, independent woman.
I urge you to not fall for this propaganda, put your health and yourself first, and practise gratitude, yoga, and meditation to relieve stress.

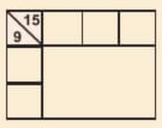
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

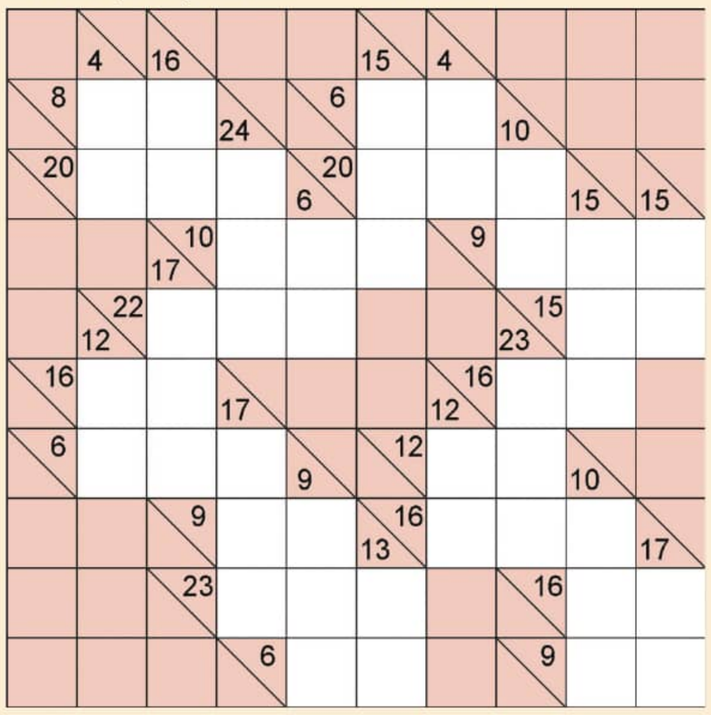
50% of 60% of 70% of 80% of 90% of 100 = ?

Kakuro

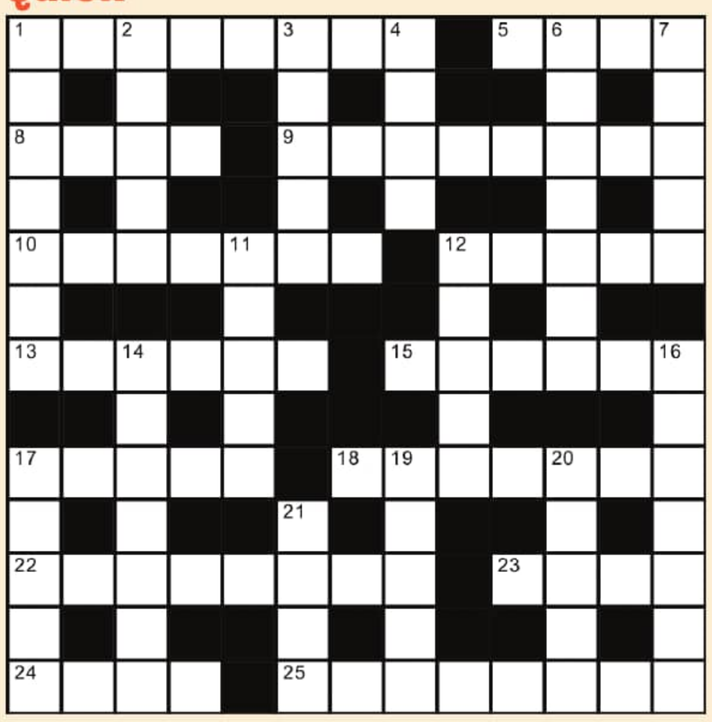
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hotelier (8)
5 Birds lay them (4)
8 Irish parliament (4)
9 Put together (8)
10 Government bulletin (7)
12 Condescend (5)
13 Waiting to receive visitors (2,4)
15 Rhododendron-type shrub (6)
17 Having a gun (5)
18 Restoration or re-establishment (7)
22 Decathlon event (4,4)
23 Ship's prison (4)
24 Sunset? (4)
25 Overshadowed (8)

DOWN

1 Gout (7)
2 Air attack (5)
3 Map or lay-out (5)
4 Poet Ogden (4)
6 One of the archangels (7)
7 Lustre or gloss (5)
11 Domesticated (5)
12 Twelve (5)
14 Tributes (7)
16 Claimed (7)
17 Felt sore (5)
19 Kick out (5)
20 Bangalore is divided into 225 ____ (5)
21 Stubborn one (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G

DJ SKK FAXAHFO TH UTG GA KTTB SJ JUD.HIO, SHF HTJ UTG JUAP SWA DH JUAY.OAKQAO.

Linemaro

Can I borrow your phone? I need to call God and tell him I found his missing angel

Mindchow

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one

Joke of the day

Everything takes longer than you expect, even when you expect it to take longer than you expect

Loop

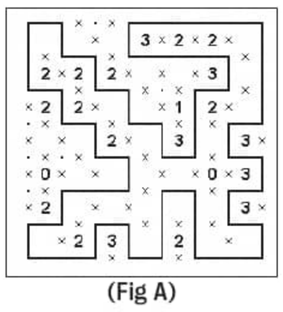
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

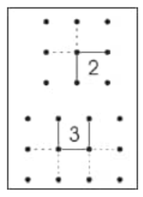
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

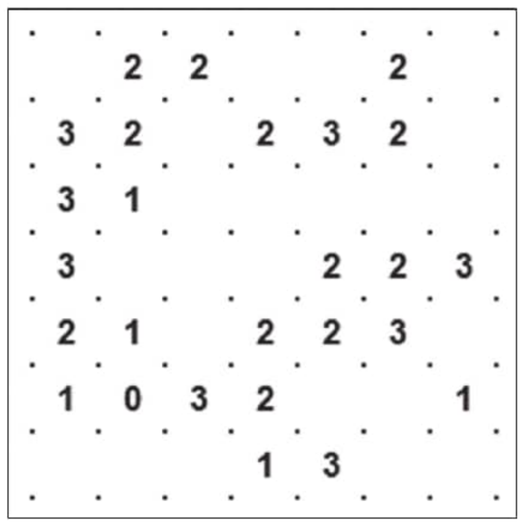
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



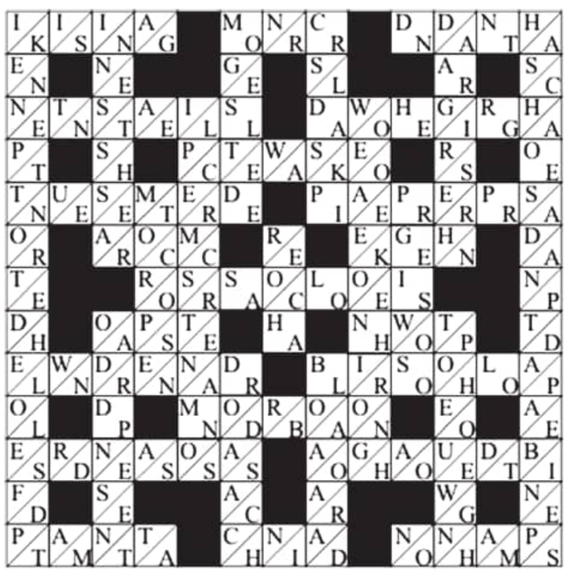
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



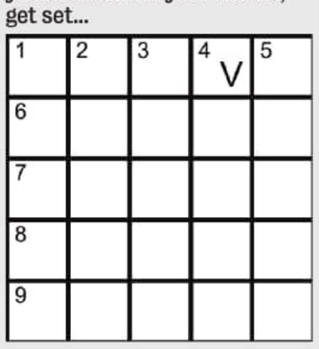
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Salve; 6 Erica; 7 Raves; 8 Enter; 9 Supra

DOWN

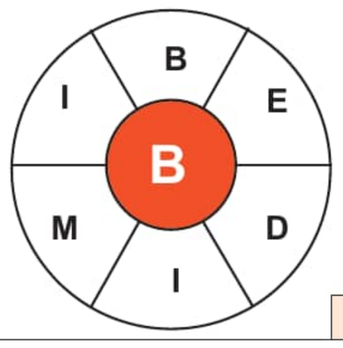
1 Scrap; 2 Revel; 3 An ear; 4 IV rut; 5 Sees a

Mensapuzzle

Which number finishes this grid?

2	6	3
5	3	3
7	2	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; **03** Good; **04** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9	5	4		8	1	6	
		2				5		
			3		2			
1	8	9				2	5	7
7	5	6				3	1	4
			1		4			
		7				8		
	2	4	7		5	9	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

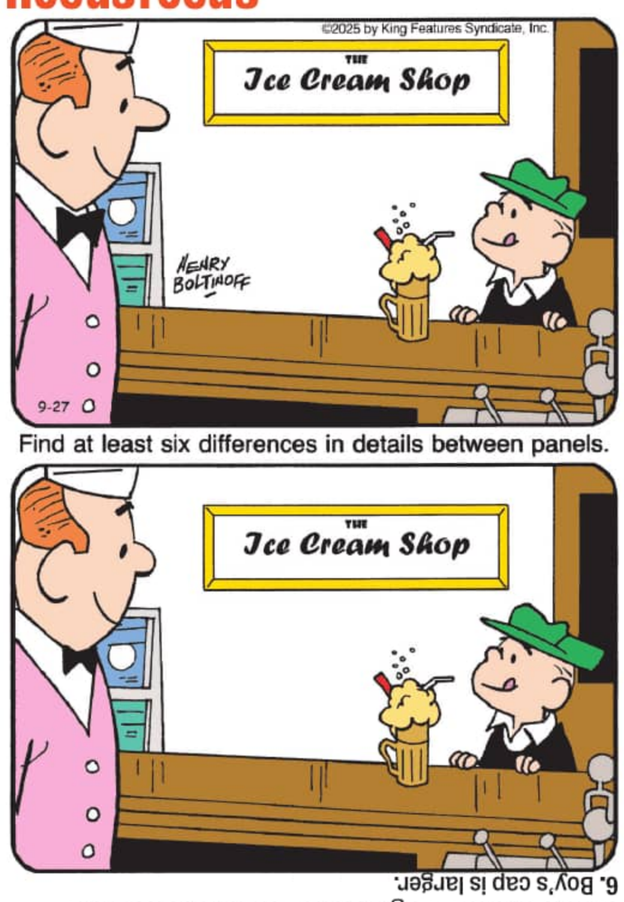
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
1 3 6 7

Medium = 24
6 5 4 3

Hard = 27
3 5 5 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Nose is different. 2. Handis moved. 3. Tie is smaller. 4. Sign is lower. 5. Man has less hair. 6. Boy's cap is larger.

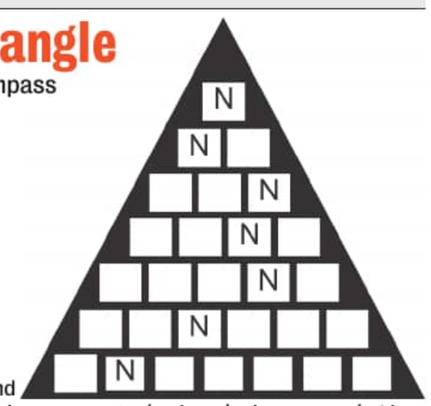
Riddler

For each of the following clues, what is a synonym that contains the letters CAT?

1. Baseball position
2. Copy
3. What you get with a doctor's prescription
4. Underground cemetery
5. Time off from school or work

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Neon symbol
3 Homey retreat
4 Oversee
5 Drift of events
6 Leased
7 Went in

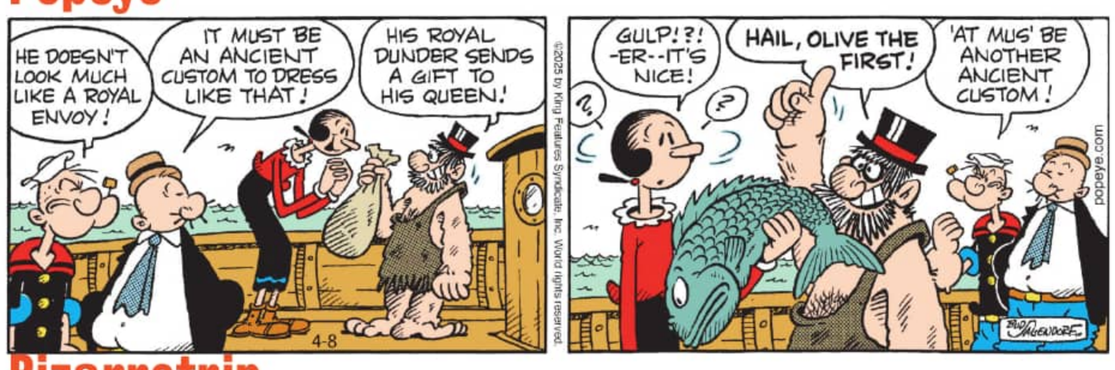


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


HE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE A ROYAL ENVOY!
IT MUST BE AN ANCIENT CUSTOM TO DRESS LIKE THAT!
HIS ROYAL DUNDER SENDS A GIFT TO HIS QUEEN!
GULP!?! -ER--IT'S NICE!
HAIL, OLIVE THE FIRST!
'AT MUS' BE ANOTHER ANCIENT CUSTOM!
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

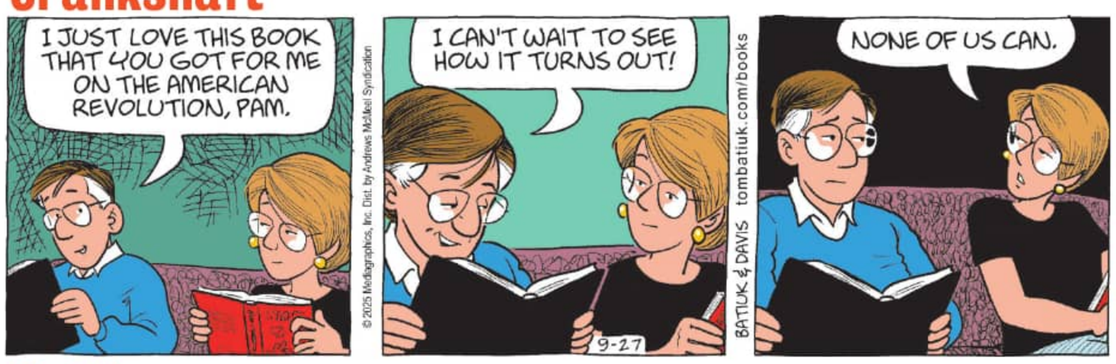
Wayno® & 4 Piraro. 9-27-25
I'll give the seafood, rice and saffron dish a five-star review if you slip me twenty bucks.
PAELLA PAYOLA
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU KNOW... THIS WHOLE ORDEAL WAS KINDA FUN.
NOTHING LIKE THE RUSH OF NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES.
I KNEW IT!! I KNEW YOU HAD A SENSE OF ADVENTURE!
MAYBE NEXT TIME WE DO SOMETHING COOL LIKE LOOK FOR THE LOST ARK.
OR DELIVER A MYSTICAL RING TO A VOLCANO.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I JUST LOVE THIS BOOK THAT YOU GOT FOR ME ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, PAM.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW IT TURNS OUT!
NONE OF US CAN.
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
9-27

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year encourages a deep dive into personal mastery and profound inner knowledge. Dedicated time for reflection, research, or a specialised study will be highly rewarding. Trust your analytical mind, but also listen to the subtle whispers of your soul. Your journey towards self-discovery will bring unexpected wisdom and peaceful clarity.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Go the extra mile to make your partner feel truly special today. Embrace this strong introspective mood to gain clarity on life goals. Reflecting on what matters most is essential now. Moving forward requires personal focus.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Organisation is the key to a smoother, more fulfilling life path starting now. Take time to plan your next steps and create a strong roadmap. Feel motivated to tackle delayed projects headon. Seize this productive, goal-setting energy.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

An exciting, unexpected surprise awaits you today that makes the impossible real. You are about to reach a major milestone or achieve a long-standing goal. Embrace this surreal moment and celebrate your well-deserved success fully.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

The moon surrounds you with harmony, helping resolve all lingering tensions today. Guidance from elders is key if you are starting a new venture now. Keep an eye out for the lucky letter 'L' for an extra boost of fortune.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

A calm and patient approach is needed; let others take the lead and delegate tasks. Stepping back benefits your long-term projects greatly. Your family deeply craves your attention today. Connect and share meaningful moments at home.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Today's lesson is peaceful acceptance; go with the flow and allow others their process. Embracing a flexible mindset brings great harmony now. Observe and learn from those around you. Your home life promises deep tranquillity and contentment.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Your mind buzzes with fresh ideas and vibrant, creative energy now. Use this burst to e ciently complete tasks and inspire innovative solutions. Set a confident, enthusiastic tone at work, motivating everyone around you today.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Hard work is essential today, demanding effort toward your ultimate goals. It is an auspicious day to begin a search for new living arrangements. Make well-researched, strategic financial investments now. Focus on diligent effort.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Let go of all old regrets and past setbacks completely today. Your thoughts naturally gravitate towards your exciting future plans and aspirations. Embrace this forward-thinking mindset to craft a clear, ambitious vision for what's next.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Love and beautiful vulnerability will guide you out of your protective shell today. An unexpected, meaningful connection could blossom now. Share your valuable ideas and opinions at work confidently; your perspective needs to be heard.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Success is certainly within your easy reach, but a rushed approach is not needed. Take a measured, strategic pace for better long-term results now. Carve out time for wellearned self-care and quiet, necessary reflection tonight.

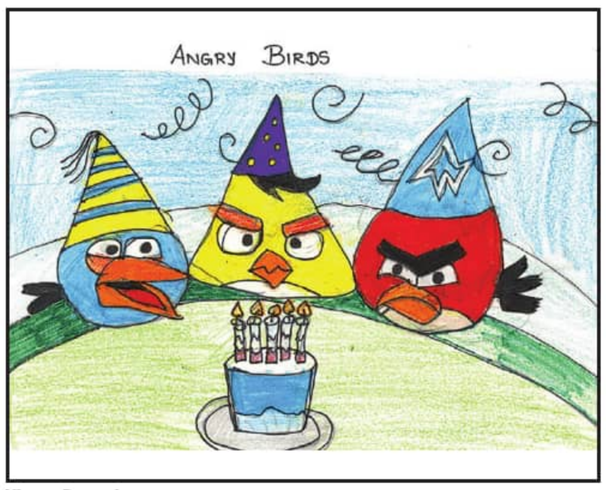
Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Bridge the gap between your cherished dreams and your current reality today. Stay flexible and open to new ideas; adaptability is your greatest asset. An opportunity brings you closer to long-term goals. Rewards are well-poised to arrive.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Dheeraj, Bengaluru



Vivyn, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

5×6×7×8×9×100/10000 =21×72/100 =15.12

BULL'S EYE

bide, imbed, limbibe, IMBIBED

STRIKE OUT

K	I	N	G		O	R	C		N	A	N	A		
E		E		G		L		R		C				
E	N	T	A	I	L		A	W	E	I	G	H		
	P	H		C	E	A	S	E		S		E		
T	E	E	M	E	D		P	A	P	E	R	S		
	T		O			R		K		N		A		
O		R	O	C		R		K	E	N		A		
T		O	R	A	C	L	E	S				N		
H		O	S	E		A		N	O	T		D		
E	N	D	E	A	R		B	I	S	H	O	P		
L		D		M	O	R	O	N		O		A		
E	D	E	S	S	A		A	G	O	U	T	I		
F		S			C		R					N		
T	A	T	A		H	I	D		O	H	M	S		

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	V	E
C	E	R	I	A
A	V	E	R	S
R	E	N	T	E
P	R	A	U	S

QUOTE UNCODE

It all depends on how we look at things, and not how they are in themselves.

QUICK

P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N		E	G	G	S		
O		L		H		A			A			H		
D	A	I	L		A	S	S	E	M	B	L	E		
A		T		R		H		E		R				
G	A	Z	E	T	T	E		D	E	I	G	N		
R				A				O		E				
A	T	H	O	M	E		A	Z	A	L	E	A		
		E			D	E		N	E	W	A	L		
C		A		M			R	E				E		
H	I	G	H	J	U	M	P		B	R	I	G		
E		L			D					D		E		
F		S			C		R					N		
E	D	E	S	S	A		A	G	O	U	T	I		
L		D		M	O	R	O	N		O		A		
E	N	D	E	A	R		B	I	S	H	O	P		
H		O	S	E		A		N	O	T		D		
O		R	O	C		R		K	E	N		A		
T		O	R	A	C	L	E	S				N		
	T	E	E	M	E	D		P	A	P	E	R	S	
	P	H		C	E	A	S	E		S		E		
E	N	T	A	I	L		A	W	E	I	G	H		
E		E		G		L		R		C				
K	I	N	G		O	R	C		N	A	N	A		

MENSA PUZZLE

2. The figures in each row add up to 11.

RIDDLER

1.(cat)cher,
2.dupli(cat)e,
3.medi(cat)ion,
4.(cat)acomb &
5.va(cat)ion

SUDOKU

3	9	5	4	7	8	1	6	2
4	7	2	9	6	1	5	8	3
8	6	1	3	5	2	4	7	9
2	4	3	5	1	7	6	9	8
1	8	9	6	4	3	2	5	7
7	5	6	8	2	9	3	1	4
5	3	8	1	9	4	7	2	6
9	1	7	2	3	6	8	4	5
6	2	4	7	8	5	9	3	1

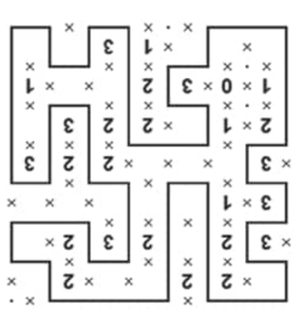
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, Ne, Den, Tend, Trend, Rented, Entered.

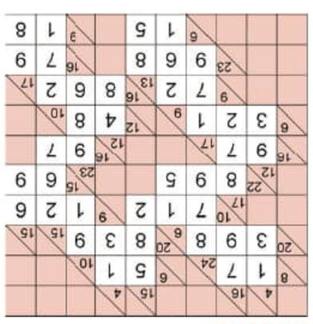
GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 6 − 7 + 1 = 3
Medium
5 − 4 + 3 x 6 = 24
Hard
5 \ 5 x 3 x 9 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO



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Owen Cooper wins Critics Choice award

Actor Owen Cooper added another milestone to his rapidly rising career after winning Best Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or Movie Made for Television at the Critics Choice Awards, held earlier this week

SUHANA'S TRIP IS ALL ABOUT SLOW CHILLIN'

Understated Dubai posts show rest, routine, and balance beyond fame

Suhana Khan has been using her Dubai posts to share a softer, off-duty side of her life. The actor, and the daughter of Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, has kept things simple on social media, leaning into small, everyday moments instead of glossy, promotional frames. There is a sense of effortlessness to her updates, as if they were captured on the go for memory's sake rather than shaped to draw eyes or spark chatter.

Seen through her photos, Dubai comes across as slow, easy, and unhurried, shaped more by quiet moments than by the city's usual rush or spectacle. It comes across as a space where she has slowed down, stepped back, and taken time for herself.

Café hopping and everyday routines

A large part of her time in Dubai seems centred around cafés and close friends. Her posts show her moving through pastel-toned spaces, sitting by sunlit windows, and enjoying unstructured hours over coffee and dessert. There are no formal meetings or public appearances—just quiet conversations, laughter, and pauses that feel familiar to anyone who has travelled with friends.

What stands out is the ease with which she carries herself in these settings. She does not appear posed or performative. The moments feel lived-in. Whether she is mid-laugh or scrolling through her phone, the images suggest comfort and familiarity. These are not pictures chosen for reach or reaction. They appear chosen because they marked a pleasant moment in her day.

Beaches, balance

Her beach photographs further shift the mood. The visuals are softer and slower. She is seen walking along the shoreline, her hair moving with the breeze, the light warm and gentle. Her posts feel quiet and introspective, suggesting she is taking real time off from the usual rush.

Suhana stepped into the spotlight with her debut in The Archies, a launch that came after years of public attention before her first release. Next, she is set to share the screen with her father, Shah Rukh Khan, in King that is expected to arrive this year. **— ETimes**

Priyanka pauses to reflect

Priyanka Chopra has begun 2026 on a reflective and grateful note, taking a moment to acknowledge her resilience and personal growth after years of relentless work. In a candid Instagram Stories video shared on Tuesday, the actor spoke about slowing down, appreciating the journey, and being kinder to herself.

Filmed during a quiet beach walk near her home, the video captures Priyanka dressed casually in a two-piece outfit, framed against a serene sunset. Speaking directly to the camera, she described 2026 as "the future" and marvelled at how quickly time has moved. Looking back at her life and family, she expressed gratitude for the opportunities she has had and the life she has built. Priyanka admitted that moving at a fast pace for so long often makes one forget to pause and acknowledge survival itself. "So here's me giving myself a pat on the back," she said, underlining the importance of self-compassion. As the sun dipped below the horizon, she shared a hopeful message, reminding viewers that there is always light at the end of the tunnel if one continues to persevere.

On the professional front, Priyanka is preparing for a return to Indian cinema SS Rajamouli's upcoming Telugu project Varanasi. **—ETimes**

'Soon': Deepika is game for rom-com

Deepika Padukone has finally addressed speculation around her possible return to the romantic comedy genre, a space many fans feel she excels in. At an intimate pre-birthday interaction with fans, the actress spoke candidly about her personal life, upcoming projects, and whether a rom-com is on the horizon.

Responding to a fan who asked when audiences would see her in a rom-com again, Deepika said she hoped it would happen "very, very soon," calling it one of her favourite genres both as a viewer and as an actor. But, she also expressed reservations, noting that the current cinematic climate seems to favour other genres. "I feel like the audience is seeking something else right now," she said, adding that strong audience demand could still revive interest in romantic comedies.

The discussion quickly turned playful, with fans suggesting potential co-stars ranging from Ranbir Kapoor and Hrithik Roshan to Shah Rukh Khan and her husband, Ranveer Singh—the latter drawing the loudest applause. Deepika also hinted at exploring OTT projects but said fans firmly insisted she belonged on the big screen.

Addressing the scarcity of rom-coms in Bollywood, Deepika pointed to a lack of writers and producers backing the genre and invited fans to share compelling material. On the work front, she is currently filming Shah Rukh Khan's action film King and Atlee's upcoming sci-fi project, while rumours continue about a possible reunion with Ranbir Kapoor in Ayan Mukerji's next film, reportedly inspired by Chori Chori.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Intriguing turn

Yash's forthcoming movie, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, continues to shape itself as an evolving cinematic extravaganza—one that grows darker, deeper and increasingly daring with every reveal. The film's layered world takes another intriguing turn with the introduction of Rukmini Vasanth as Mellisa, a character defined by grace, authority and quiet fearlessness.

Following the striking first looks of Kiara Advani as Nadia, Huma Qureshi as Elizabeth, Nayanthara as Ganga and Tara Sutaria as Rebecca, the film deepens its immersive narrative with Mellisa's arrival. Set against a hazy, vibrant party backdrop in the late 1960s, Mellisa cuts through the atmosphere with absolute self-assurance. While the room sways in motion and mood, her presence remains unwavering.

Director Geetu Mohandas speaks highly of Rukmini's process, describing her as an actor driven by intelligence and curiosity. Rather than performing at the surface, she engages deeply with her character.

Shoot wrap

The shooting of Srimathi Sindhoora, starring Vijay Raghavendra, has been completed, with the team now fully engaged in post-production work. The film marks a significant addition to Vijay Raghavendra's career, especially after his recent performance in Rippan Swamy, where he played a distinctly different role.

Directed by R Anantharaju, Srimathi Sindhoora is backed by real estate businessman DN Nagireddy under the R and R Enterprises banner. Anantharaju said this is his 12th film as a director, following Capital City, a 1990s-set action drama centred on underworld activities. In contrast, Srimathi Sindhoora is positioned as a family-oriented drama. He expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of the cast throughout the shoot.

According to the director, Vijay Raghavendra plays a young man from an affluent family, while Manasi Sudheer essays the role of his mother. The story revolves around a marriage that takes place under unavoidable circumstances. It is not a love story but a family drama.